

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2830  
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2004  
ASSISTING COIR SECTOR  
Karunakaran Shri P.;Thummar Shri Virjibhai

**Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:**

- (a) details of coir export for last three years and foreign exchange earned therefrom;
- (b) whether the Government of India has withdrawn the MEP and PPES which was in force since 1.4.79;
- (c) if so, the reasons to withdraw the scheme;
- (d) whether Government has introduced any alternative scheme;
- (e) if not, will the Government take immediate steps to assist coir sector;
- (f) whether there is a proposal to restore minimum support price for coir products and also to boost export of coir products;
- (g) if so, details thereon; and
- (h) total man power engaged in the coir industry as on date, State-wise details?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY COMMERCE & INDUSTRY ( SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN )

(a) Yearwise details of coir and coir products exported and the amount of foreign exchange (FE) earned during the last three years, are furnished below:

(Quantity in Metric Tonnes)  
(Amount of FE Rs. lakh)

| Item  | 2001-2002 |          | 2002-2003 |          | 2003-2004 |          |
|-------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|
|       | Quantity  | Amount   | Quantity  | Amount   | Quantity  | Amount   |
| Total | 71334.81  | 32058.43 | 84182.59  | 35270.53 | 102256.48 | 40750.68 |

(b) to (g): The restriction of Minimum Export Price (MEP) for export of coir and coir products was withdrawn by the Government on 9 April, 2002. The decision to withdraw the restriction of MEP was taken in the larger interests of the coir industry, after due consideration of various relevant issues. As the Minimum Export Price on coir and coir products stood withdrawn, the Purchase Price (Enforcement) Scheme had lost its relevance and was, therefore, withdrawn. There is no proposal under consideration of the Government either to reintroduce the restriction of MEP or the Purchase Price (Enforcement) Scheme on export of coir and coir products. There is also no proposal to introduce any alternative scheme. After dispensing with the condition of MEP, there has been an overall increase in terms of both total amount and quantity of exports of coir and coir products. In order to boost the export of coir and coir products, the Government has taken the following measures:

(i) A Scheme titled 'External Market Development Assistance' has been introduced in 2000-2001 to provide financial assistance to small exporters in the coir sector. This assistance consists of providing Government grants to meet major part of the expenditure on air travel and rentals of stalls by exporters and their delegations to participate in buyer-seller meets, trade fairs and exhibitions

abroad. The scheme also provides financial assistance to individual small exporters for undertaking sales-cum-study tours and participation in trade delegations, trade fairs, exhibitions, etc., abroad.

(ii) The Coir Board of the Government similarly participates in trade fairs/exhibitions, product promotion programmes and catalogue shows abroad, in order to promote export of products which do not get otherwise displayed by individual exporters, etc.

(h) The State-wise details of workers associated with the coir industry are as under:

| Sl.No. | Name of State | Employment ( number of workers) |
|--------|---------------|---------------------------------|
|--------|---------------|---------------------------------|

|   |                |          |
|---|----------------|----------|
| 1 | Kerala         | 4,33,000 |
| 2 | Tamil Nadu     | 72,840   |
| 3 | Andhra Pradesh | 41,400   |
| 4 | Karnataka      | 18,000   |
| 5 | Orissa         | 6,520    |
| 6 | Other States   | 14,900   |

|       |          |
|-------|----------|
| Total | 5,86,660 |
|-------|----------|